The Blurb

Newsletter of The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club
Public Service Since 1949

Kit Building

April Fool, there's no article on Kit Building in this Blurb. But your editor is about halfway through building an Elecraft K2 HF transceiver, and she thought you might like to see a shot of the work in progress.

We'll have an article (and perhaps a presentation at a furure PMRC meeting) when the rig is at least finished enough to operate CW...there's a SSB option kit being built too... *de K3XS*

In This Issue

The Blurb is published monthly by, and for, the members of **The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, INC.** whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. *Copying and quoting* is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs. Requests should be sent to the Editor. *Subscriptions* are available to non-members for $10, addressed to the Treasurer.

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Labels and mailing: **WB3KOJ** & **WB3KOH**

In memory of Sam Kuncevich **N3QIE - Blurb artist 1958-2004**

Submissions deadline: all copy must be in the hands of the Editors by the 20th of the previous month.

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For club information: contact any club officer, or the repeaters listed below. Address or club directory changes, and articles that are for the membership e-mail list should be sent to: wb3koj@comcast.net

The club meets at 7:30 PM on the **second non-holiday Wednesday** of every month except July and August at *The Masonic Village at Lafayette Hill*
801 Ridge Pike
Lafayette Hill, PA
19444-1799
All visitors are welcome!

Sunday Morning Net Schedules
· **2 Meter/ 70cm Net.................**at 09:30et on W3QV repeater
· **10-on-10 Net ....**at 10:00et 28.393 MHz USB (±QRM)
· **75 meter Net** ....at 10:20et 3.993 MHz LSB

License Examinations
are held on the **first non-holiday Thursday** each month (except July and August) at **Northeast High School, Cottman and Algon Streets, Philadelphia PA** Registration begins at 6:00 P.M. Enter through the SPARC wing. Exams begin and doors closed and locked at **6:30 P.M. Sharp!** .Applicants should call Dusty ND3Q at 215-879-0505 (day) or 215 482 0386 (eve) for the latest information.

Club Stations
W3QV Club Repeater - *Trustee*: **W3BBB**
Ridge & Port Royal Avenues, Philadelphia, PA
147.03 MHz + PL 91.5 Hz ⌂444.80 MHz + PL 186.2 Hz
Reach us on Echolink through WU3I-L
W3AA at Northeast High School -*Trustee:* **WU3I**
Cottman and Algon Streets, Philadelphia, PA
W3EM - Field Day/special event station *Trustee:* **W3VVS**

Radio amateur tapped to head NASA

(Mar 22, 2005, ARRL) -- President George W. Bush has announced his intention to nominate Michael Griffin, NR3A, to be the next administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration ([NASA](#)). He'll succeed Sean O'Keefe, who departed NASA earlier this year to become chancellor of Louisiana State University.

Griffin currently heads the Space Department at Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory. Prior to that, he was president and chief operating officer of In-Q-Tel Inc, served in several positions within Orbital Sciences Corporation and was NASA's chief engineer. In 2003 testimony before the US House of Representatives' Future of Human Space Flight Committee on Science,

Griffin described himself as "an unabashed supporter of space exploration in general, and of human space flight in particular." expressed his belief that the human space flight program "is in the long run possibly the most significant activity in which our nation is engaged." His academic resume is extensive and impressive. In addition to a bachelor's degree in physics from Johns Hopkins, holds master's degrees in aerospace science, applied physics, business administration, civil engineering and electrical engineering and a doctorate in aerospace engineering. The US Senate must confirm

Griffin's appointment, which is said to enjoy bipartisan support.

Ask Ted:

tech talk about Microsoft Windows**®** from N3OWM

Windows® XP Home Networks

Note: This article is not a detailed instruction list. It is an overview.

One of the questions I get asked almost daily is, "Should I upgrade to XP?" The resounding answer is YES, especially if you are running a 9x system. Windows® XP is the most stable and secure Operating System (OS) in Windows' history. The second part of most questions is "Should I use HOME or PRO?" Again the answer is simple. If you have just one computer, XP Home is what you need. With two or more computers, I would use XP Pro. Reason: XP Pro has a more robust network kernel then XP Home. Now if you need to connect to a corporate network then you **must** use XP Pro. One thought before we get into XP. If you are running Windows 2K Pro, I would not upgrade if the system is not running correctly. In this case `fdisk` and `format` the system before installing XP.

Caution: if you are upgrading to XP, clean your system first. Make sure it is virus free, adware free and clear all temp spaces. Unplug all USB devices; I usually unplug any Plug 'n Play parallel printers and serial devices. I would also run `scandisk` and

`defrag` in the safe mode before doing the upgrade. The best time to add more memory is before you do the upgrade. A good app to run is `cclean`. It is freeware and available on the Web.

Once we have installed the OS (Home or Pro) we need to install SP2! Notice I said **need** to. SP 2 is a major change to the OS not just a security patch, and I believe it is a **must** install. (I say again, you MUST clean your system before upgrading this is a very important step, you may have problems with XP SP2 if you do not do this).

In fact, if you want to upgrade to a future revision of Internet Explorer (IE), you must have XP SP2 installed. XP SP2 has a good firewall and it comes to you at a great price: $0. When installed SP2 it will also block popups and any files that IE will try to download. You will have the option of loading the files or allowing the popup on a one-time basis, or forever, whichever you choose. The SP2 upgrade does not include a virus package, I recommend AVG it is free; and available via the Web.

XP loves memory, the more the better, so when you do upgrade add as much memory as the system can handle
.

As far as my experience shows XP will run in a P-III 550 with 512MB of memory without any "slow down" issues. All of my testing using this OS was done on XP Pro W/SP2. Home should act the same. I would not install XP on a system with less than 256MB of

memory.

By The Way

When you upgrade a computer running Windows 9x or Me to Windows XP, the user account passwords are removed. That means someone can log on to the local computer with a blank password, and if the account is an administrative account, they can do all manner of bad things, accessing your files and making changes to your programs and the operating system. Be sure you assign strong passwords to the user accounts after you upgrade. A strong password is a password with Upper and Lower case alpha and numeric, at least six characters long.

XP workgroup connections;

A workgroup is a peer-to-peer network, there is no server and all systems (hosts) can talk to all systems. Each "host" (system) controls its own file and printer security

So it stands to reason the all that connected "hosts" belong to the same group and have different names to identify them. XP systems need a secure ID (9x system did not. need a password.) Last but not least a unique IP address.

Networking XP

Now connecting XP systems to a home network can be a little difficult. To set up a workgroup,
1. All systems must have the same workgroup name
2. Have a unique computer name
3. A login ID with a password
4. Need a unique IP address on the same network (We will

Addressing

192.168.x.y where x is the network and y is the host (system). If the router's default address is 192.168.2.1 the system needs an address of 192.168.2.2 if the address is 192.168.1.1 you will use 192.168.1.2. The first thee "octets" (from left to right is the network address the last octet is the hosts address. The network address must match the router address and the host address must be different you can use 1 to 254 for the host address, however a good practice is to use the host address of 2.

use the router's DHCP to disseminate the address to each system).
5. One of the stations must be a *master browser*.

What is a master browser? This is a process that is charged with the job of telling all the hosts in the workgroup the names of the other systems in that workgroup. The process links a host name to the IP address. This protocol is called NetBIOS names. Without this process the system cannot share folders or devices. I am not going say much about this protocol other than it is a subject far too complicated to address in a simple article. But without this running, when you click on network places you either get nothing or an error. What you need is a list of all the computers in the workgroup. This means one system in the workgroup must be the "MASTER BROWSER". In the 9x world all systems were defaulted to act as master browser.

With XP it is not that straight forward. We need to check this setting and to do so we must use the registry editor called `regedit`. On most new installs this setting is false, and on upgrades it is true (most of the time).

We are going to "look" at this setting and change it if necessary.

Start, run, type `regedit`***, and drill down from***
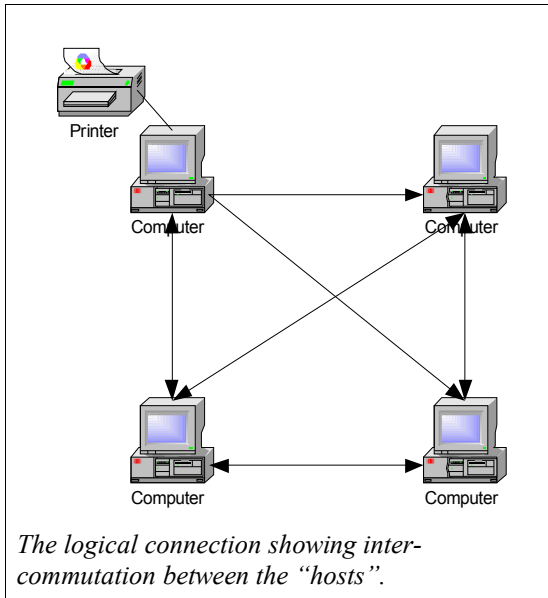
```
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE
  SYSTEM
    CurrentControlSet
      Services
        Browser
          Parameters
            IsDomainMaster
```

Click on this setting. The value should be true. If it is false just change to true and click on OK. Close `regedit`

This needs to be checked /changed on one system only. Assuming that it will always be powered on. This is a registry change that will not affect the OS directly however be careful when you make any changes in the registry. Look first; you may not need to change any settings.

Connecting to the Internet via DSL or Cable

Now we are going to connect to the Internet. This will be a broadband connection via DSL or cable. The router can be a Belken or Linksys router. In the example we will need at least a 5-port router. The hardware connect is straightforward. Connect the router (or WAP/Router) to the workgroup hub via a straight thru cat 5 cable with J45 plugs at

The logical connection showing inter-commutation between the "hosts".

Now type the router address (from the manual) into the address line of the browser. When connected you will need to know the ID and password to continue. My advice is to use the install disk, it should work. The Belkin install/setup procedure is the best I have seen; its cost is a little higher the linksys. However it is worth the extra cost. If you are going WiFi (wireless) I suggest getting the "G" model. Wireless setups need more security then hardwired version here are a few suggestions.

Security

Change the default password (router) (wired and wireless)
Change the default SSID
Turn off (disable) broadcast of the SSID
Turn on (enable) WEP

DE N3OWM 73's
theojkat@bellatlantic.net

each end. Next connect the modem to the router "wan" connection with the same type cable.

Now we need to configure the router! I am going to assume that we are using a WAP or wireless connection. The install process is about the same for a WAP/Router or a plain router.
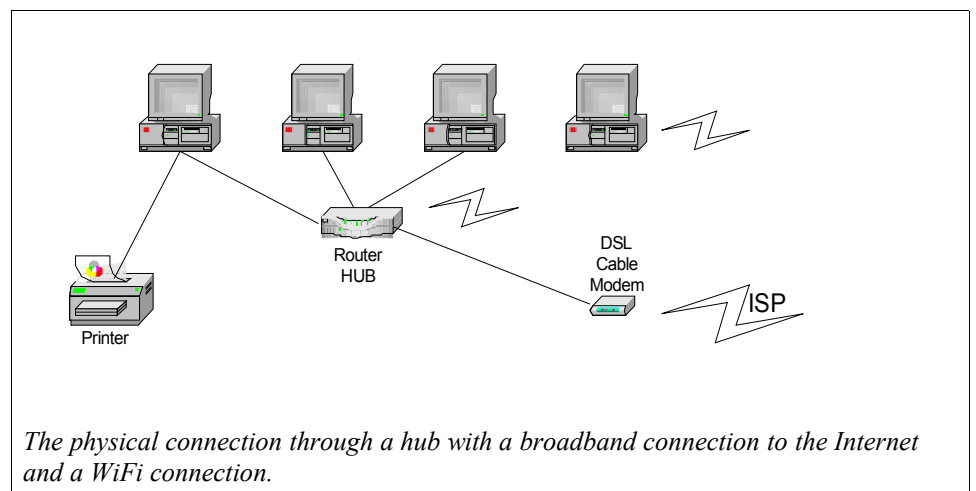
At this point you do not need any software the router will take care of the broadband connection. Comcast connection is usually the default setup on the router. DSL connection uses the PPPoE setup. You will need to know your ID and password to complete the setup. . You will use your browser to connect to the router; the install disk will do this for you. If the install fails here is a *manual* setup procedure. You will need the install manual to get the details for your router type.
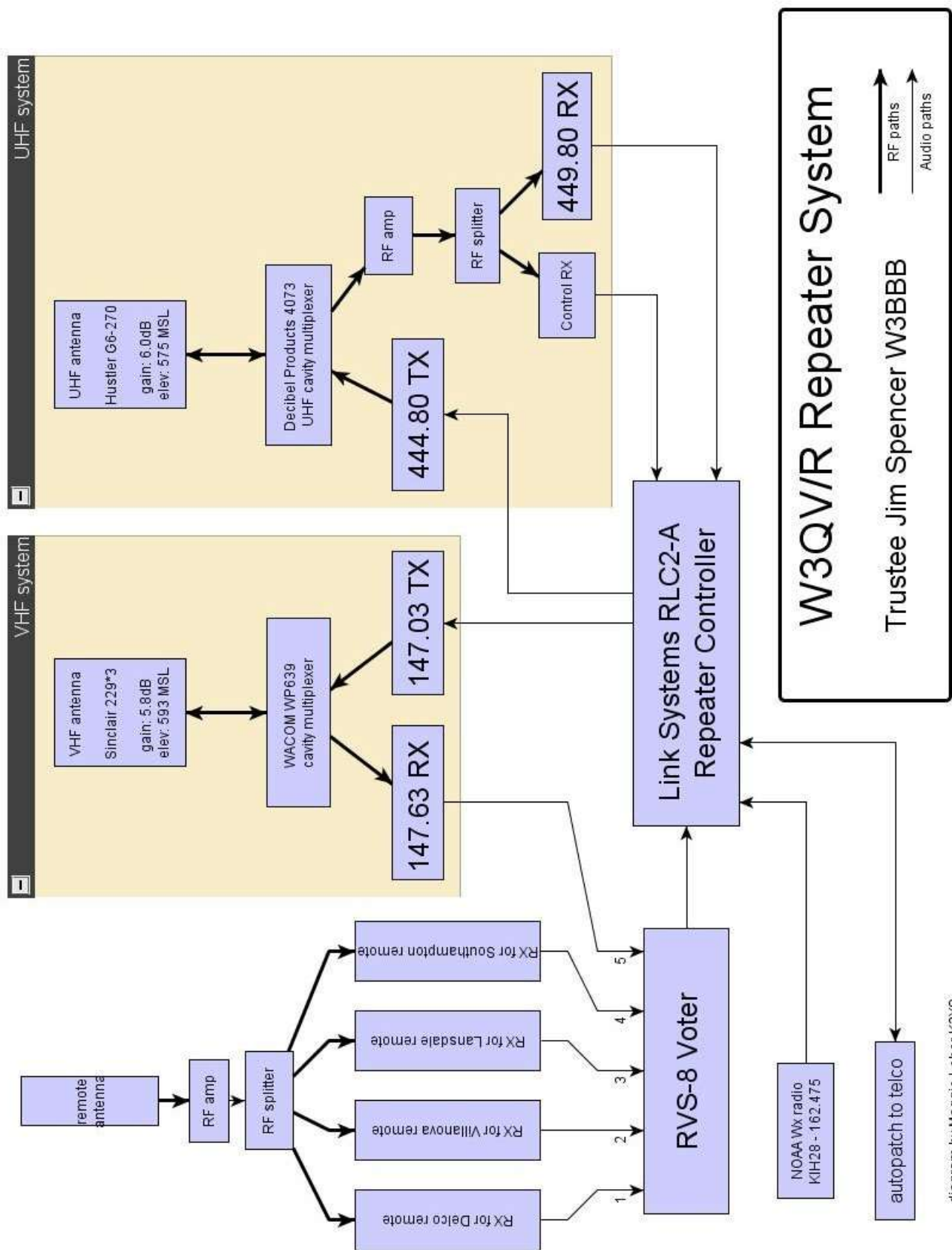
Change the IP address of the system that you are using to the same network as the default address the router has, this address will be in the manual.

The physical connection through a hub with a broadband connection to the Internet and a WiFi connection.

W3QV/R Repeater System

Trustee Jim Spencer W3BBB

RF paths
Audio paths

UHF system

UHF antenna
Hustler G6-270
gain: 6.0dB
elev: 575 MSL

Decibel Products 4073
UHF cavity multiplexer

RF amp

RF splitter

449.80 RX

Control RX

444.80 TX

VHF system

VHF antenna
Sinclair 229*3
gain: 5.8dB
elev: 593 MSL

WACOM WP639
cavity multiplexer

147.03 TX

147.63 RX

Link Systems RLC2-A
Repeater Controller

remote antenna

RF amp

RF splitter

RX for Delco remote

RX for Villanova remote

RX for Lansdale remote

RX for Southampton remote

RVS-8 Voter

1
2
3
4
5

NOAA Wx radio
KIH28 - 162.475

autopatch to telco

diagram by Maggie Leber K3XS
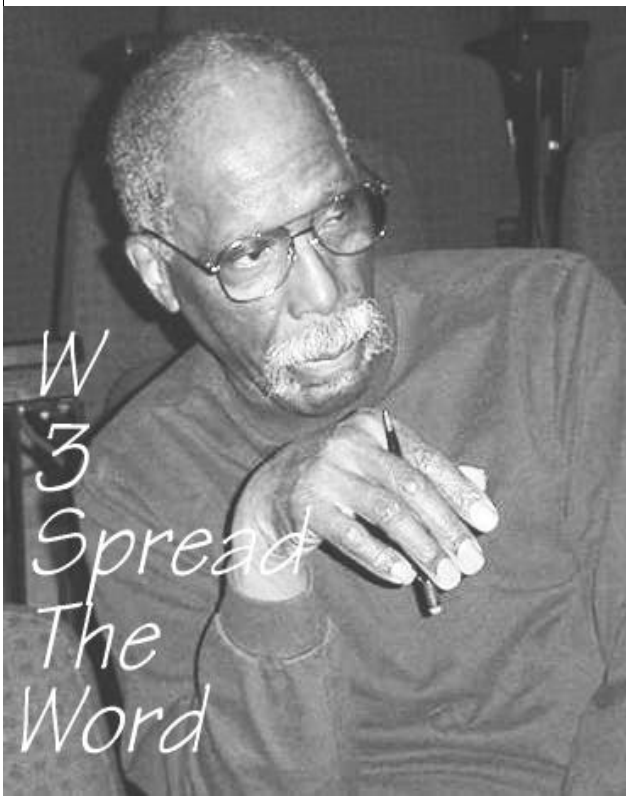
W3 Spread The Word

photo: WA3KIO

Spread The Word

--de Al W3STW, PMRC President

Hello Club members.

At our March 16, 2005 General Club meeting Sol, N3UBY, displayed an antenna designed for the Amateru Radio transmitter fox hunt. The antenna was thought to be unique because of the construction and materials used. The elements were made from a steel tape measure and the element length and spacing seemed inconsistent with past information about 2 meter antenna construction. The boom was made from PVC pipe.

The oddity of the construction and surely the steel tape measure elements, brought about a lively debate. Orated was three cents worth, from Sue, K3SUE, Dusty, ND3Q, and Jim, NS3K; Barry, K3EUI, dropped a dimes worth, Ra, N3FH, added about five cents and a generous contribution of a hundred fyngs worth from Jim, W3BBB. Modesty of course keeps me from revealing the worth my large contribution. And best of all no one fell asleep. Because the antenna was designed for Amateur Radio transmitter foxhunting, I believe that's why the element lengths and boom spacing appears to be so non-conventional.

Not only did the elements and boom spacing appear to be in question; the hairpin match seemed rather odd too. The hairpin match is a ongoing thread. It will be beaten to death in future discussions on the "oh three" machine hi, hi. Now that I've seen this antenna and believe that it was it indeed, designed for fox hunting I am attempting to design and build a receive and transmit version from the design presented by Sol. I've been searching the various antenna books that discuss transmission line to antenna matching in order to arrive at the specifications (for the match) scientifically and not the empirical hocus pocus that seems to persist in today's articles on antenna design. However, Jim , W3BBB, says no matter what scientifically derived formulas I find I'll still end up trimming and testing, trimming and testing. Taking it to the end step if I'm successful I'll have taken this receive antenna design and redesigned it to work as a receive and transmit antenna.

Hey! Can I get a patent for this? Great question! Come to our April '05 Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club (PMRC) general meeting and get the answer to this question and the answer to an Amateur Radio design idea you have and may want to know if you can get a patent for it and if so how to go about it. Get the answer from W3GER Gerry, patent attorney. Again thanks to our host W3PTB for putting up with us at the Masonic Village and the support from Ed, KB3IV for a great refreshment treat. In fact thank all of you.

Spread The Word. 73 Al.

March 2005 Board Meeting

The Board of the Directors of the Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club, Inc., held their March meeting at the WDRV radio station in Hatboro, PA, on March 2, 2005. President Al, W3STW called the meeting to order at 8:00 P.M. with the following additional directors attending and voting: Ed KB3IV, Maggie K3XS, Mike N3MT, Dick W3RM, Ra KB3JCR, Steve WU3I, and Bill W3AOK.

Treasurer W3RM reported on income and disbursements for February, and noted that about 80% of 2005 dues have been received to date. Dick presented and reviewed an application for new membership received from Jack Coupe, WA3BXH. On motion of W3RM, the board unanimously approved WA3BXH for membership upon payment of his dues for 2005. Dick also reported that Ed Titterton, KB3RN, has re-instated his membership with Phil-Mont, after some years of inactivity with the club.

Maggie K3XS reported on the status of the Blurb. She continues to invite the submission of story ideas, photos and articles for possible publication in the newsletter.

Mike, N3MT reported on the recent DX activity on the HF bands, which has been quite good considering the present conditions in the still declining propagation cycle. There are several dx-peditions active at â€œrareâ€ island locations.

The board regretfully noted the resignation of W3LEN, who has been the long-time Membership Chairman. Len finds it impossible to attend meetings, now that they are no longer held in center city. After board discussion, and its expression of appreciation to Len for his years of service, President W3STW appointed Ed, KB3IV, to chair the Membership Committee.

Bill, W3AOK mentioned that Field Day will be the program for the May meeting, with a presentation and discussion of FD plans led by Carmen, KE3QB, FD Chairman.
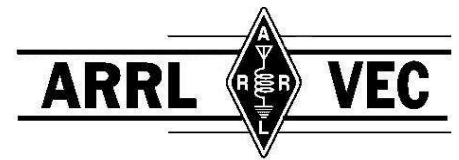
Reporting on W3AA at Northeast High School, AL, W3STW and Steve, WU3I noted that efforts are being made to accomplish (hopefully soon) the erection of the tower. Steve was able to locate at a Florida hamfest, and purchase very reasonably, a rotor control and indicator unit to match our heavy duty rotor.

WU3I and KB3IV are making arrangements, with W3BBB, to do a site survey at the Delaware County site for installation of our new repeater off-site receiver and transmitter link. Jim reported that the equipment is ready to be installed, and that only a 430 Mhz link antenna will be needed, as the 2-meter receiving antenna is already in place.

There being no further business, upon motion, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric D. Marano, N3QV, Secretary
Secretary

ARRL ⬥ VEC

223th Monthly Phil-Mont

VE Exam Session Statistics
for March 3, 2005

Two candidates took six elements, and we had two new amateurs. The VE team was chaired by Dusty Rhoads **ND3Q**, and the other participating VEs were :

**JIM MCCLOSKEY, NS3K
BOB FREER, W3YLT**

**Upcoming Exam Sessions:
April 7, 2005, May 5, 2005**

March 2005 General Meeting Minutes

The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club held the March General meeting at The Masonic Village in Lafayette Hill, PA, on March 9, 2005. President Al, W3STW called the meeting to order at 7:50 P.M.

Dick W3RM reported that most of the 2005 dues have been received. Jack P. Coupe Jr. WA3BXH was accepted as a new member at the March BOD meeting. Ed KB3IV has been appointed as the new membership chairman.

Dusty ND3Q reported that there

were a few candidates at the March VE Session, all of whom upgraded or obtained licenses.

Bill W3AOK requested more ideas for programs at the general meetings.

Ed KB3IV reported on Net Activity and made requests for anyone who wants to be NCS. He asked for more participation on the HF nets.

Steve WU3I reported on club station W3AA, at Northeast High School. He noted that, at a recent Florida hamfest, he was able to purchase a controller/indicator unit to match the club's rotator, which will be installed at W3AA.

Maggie K3XS reported on the Blurb and asked for submissions of materials.
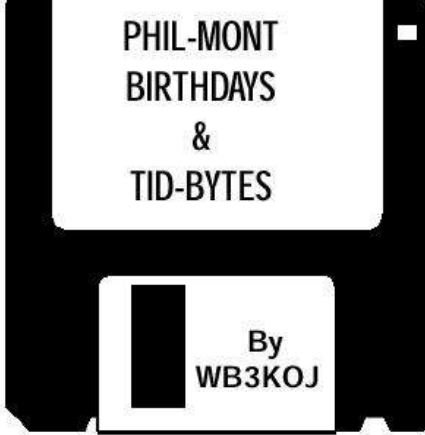
Carmen KE3QB, field day chairman, noted that field day is fast approaching and the plans are in order. The May general meeting program will be devoted to field day.

Al W3STW led a presentation on a tape measure beam antenna.

There being no further business, upon motion, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric D. Marano, N3QV Secretary

PHIL-MONT
BIRTHDAYS
&
TID-BYTES

By
WB3KOJ

NEW DIRECTORY
With this BLURB you received your 2005 P.M.R.C. Directory. If there are any errors in your listing please let me know and the corrections will be printed in this column next month. The revised listing will also appear in the fall supplement.

April Birthdays
07 Laura Giacchi - KB3LRA
   David Staples – KB3HIU
08 Jackie Chedeville (XYL W3GQD)
15 Joan Clifford (XYL W3UY)
18 Patricia Sullivan (XYL N3QMH)
28 Gwen Patton - NG3P
30 Al Kaufmann - K3ZMJ

MEMBERSHIP STATS
At press time P.M.R.C. has:
86 FULL PAID MEMBERS
9 FAMILY MEMBERS
1 YOUTH

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE

April 30 is the deadline to request application forms for the amateur radio scholarships, including Phil-Mont's Haring Memorial Scholarship, administered by the Foundation for Amateur Radio, Inc. Licensed radio amateurs may compete for one of about 55 awards, ranging from $500 to $2,500, if they plan to pursue a full-time course of studies beyond high school, and are enrolled in or have been accepted for enrollment at an accredited university, college or technical school.

Additional information will be provided about the various scholarships offered, including preferences given in some cases to residents of specified geographical areas or the pursuit of certain study programs, along with application forms. Simply send a letter or QSL card request, postmarked prior to April 30, 2005, to: **FAR Scholarships, P.O. Box 831, Riverdale, MD 20738.**

Completed applications must be submitted to F.A.R., postmarked prior to May 31. The scholarship awards are announced, and paid, in June. Questions? Contact Dick, W3RM, Phil-Mont's scholarship coordinator with F.A.R. He can also provide help with application endorsements required to be eligible for some of the scholarships, such as those sponsored by Ten-Ten International Net and by the Quarter Century Wireless Association.

Date	April 2005 with PMRC
Fri 01	April Fools' Day
Sat 02	
Sun 03	NCS: 2m N3QV - HF N3QV
Mon 04	
Tue 05	
Wed 06	PMRC Board meeting at WRDV
Thu 07	VE exams at Northeast High School-see p2
Fri 08	
Sat 09	
Sun 10	NCS: 2m N3OWM – HF WA3KIO
Mon 11	
Tue 12	
Wed 13	PMRC Gen. Meeting – Masonic Village see p2
Thu 14	
Fri 15	
Sat 16	
Sun 17	NCS: 2m: KB3IV – HF KB3IV
Mon 18	
Tue 19	
Wed 20	
Thu 21	
Fri 22	Earth Day
Sat 23	
Sun 24	NCS: 2m N3FH– HF W3STW
Mon 25	
Tue 26	
Wed 27	
Thu 28	
Fri 29	
Sat 30	